

Serial No.: 10/696,757
Inventor(s): John A. Sollars

U.S. PTO Customer No. 25280
Case No.: 2056B

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-9 (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) An inflatable airbag cushion having multiple fabric layers and closely spaced interconnected woven in joints that resist gas permeation, comprising:

- (a) a first woven fabric layer and a second woven fabric layer, said first and second woven fabric layers each having a plurality of yarns running in a first direction, a weft direction, and a plurality of yarns running in a second direction, a warp direction,
- (b) a first interconnected joint and a second interconnected joint, said first and second interconnected joints running generally parallel to each other, said first and second interconnected joints each forming a woven union of said first and second woven fabric layers along the length of said interconnected joints, the number of yarns positioned between said first and second interconnected joints being no more than about four twelve yarns in said first layer and no more than about four twelve yarns in said second layer;
- (c) at least some of said weft yarns comprising crossover yarns, crossover yarns of said first layer switching from a position within said first layer to a position within said second layer at said first interconnected joint, said crossover yarns further switching from a position within said second layer to a position within said first layer at said second interconnected joint; and

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(d) wherein said crossover yarns are substantially free of floats at said interconnected joints.

11-12. (Cancelled).

13. (Previously Presented) The airbag cushion of claim 10 wherein the number of said yarns positioned between said joints is between about two and four ~~2 and about 4~~ yarns for each of said first and second layers.

14. (Original) The airbag cushion of claim 10 wherein said crossover yarns are provided in a plain weave configuration that extends across said joints.

15. (Previously Presented) The airbag cushion of claim 10 wherein in the weft direction each of said crossover yarns passes alternately over and under each of successive warp yarns in each of said joints.

16. (Original) The inflatable airbag cushion of claim 13 wherein said crossover yarns are provided in a plain weave.

17. (Cancelled).

18. (Currently Amended) An inflatable airbag cushion having multiple layers and closely spaced interconnected woven in joints, comprising:

(a) a first woven fabric layer and a second woven fabric layer, said first and second woven fabric layers each having a plurality of first yarns extending in a first direction and a plurality of second yarns extending in a second direction, said second direction being perpendicular to said first direction,

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(b) a first interconnected joint and a second interconnected joint, said first and second interconnected joints extending generally parallel to each other, said first and second interconnected joints each forming a woven seam joining said first and second woven fabric layers along the length of said interconnected joints, wherein the number of yarns positioned between said first and second interconnected joints is about two to four ~~between about two and twelve~~ yarns in each of said first and second layers,

(c) wherein said joints are defined by yarns alternating from a position in said first layer to a position in said second layer, wherein said yarns are provided in a plain weave, said plain weave being maintained across each of said interconnected joints.

19-21. (Canceled).

22. (Previously Presented) The inflatable airbag cushion of claim 18 wherein said first and second layers are generally free from yarn interconnections at locations which are between said first and second interconnected joints.

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23. (Currently Amended) An inflatable airbag cushion comprising a woven fabric of dobby construction, said fabric comprising an inflating portion, wherein said airbag cushion comprises woven in joints, comprising:

(a) a first woven fabric layer and a second woven fabric layer, said first and second woven fabric layers each having a plurality of first yarns running in a first direction and a plurality of second yarns running in a second direction, said second direction being perpendicular to said first direction, said first direction being in the weft direction across the fabric and said second direction being provided in the warp direction upon said fabric;

(b) a first interconnected joint and a second interconnected joint, said first and second interconnected joints running generally parallel and in the weft direction and in the first direction, said first and second interconnected joints each forming a woven seam joining said first and second woven fabric layers along the length of said interconnected joints, wherein the number of first yarns running in the weft first direction positioned between said first and second interconnected joints is between about two and four twelve yarns for each of said first and second layers, and

(c) said second yarns alternating from a position in said first layer to a position in said second layer, further wherein said second yarns are provided in a plain weave, said plain weave being maintained by said second yarns across said interconnected joints.

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24-36. (Canceled)

37. (Previously Presented) The cushion of Claim 10, wherein said first and second interconnected joints run in the warp direction.

38. (Previously Presented) The cushion of Claim 10, wherein said first and second interconnected joints run in the weft direction.

39. (New) The cushion of claim 10 wherein the number of yarns between said first and second interconnected joints is no more than two yarns in said first layer and no more than two yarns in said second layer.

40. (New) The cushion of claim 18 wherein said first and second interconnected joints comprise no more than two yarns in each of said first and second layers.

41. (New) The cushion of claim 23 wherein said number of first yarns running in the weft direction between said interconnected joints is no more than two yarns said first layer and no more than two yarns in said second layer.